

TOWN OF HERNDON

Enriching the Quality of Life and Promoting a Sense of Community



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Press Contact: Anne Curtis
703/435-6800 X2010
anne.curtis@herndon-va.gov

MAYOR O'REILLY HONORED WITH GREGG SIMPSON "SPIRIT OF RELAY" AWARD *Award Presented at 3rd Annual Herndon Relay for Life*

Herndon, VA (June 12, 2006) – Amidst more than 1,000 runners, walkers and supporters who participated in the third annual Herndon Relay for Life on Saturday, June 10, the event's planning committee presented the first Gregg Simpson Spirit of Relay Award to Herndon Mayor Michael L. O'Reilly.

Named in honor of Herndon resident Gregg Simpson, an inspirational Relay for Life supporter who succumbed to cancer in August 2005, the award was created this year to honor a Relay for Life participant who exemplifies the spirit of the event. "Mayor O'Reilly has been a strong and vocal supporter of Relay for Life," said Leslie Petty, co-chair of the 2006 Relay. "He opened doors for us by participating in our kick-off, helping us make connections as we planned the event, presenting the event with a Town resolution for two consecutive years, and organizing his own Relay team – O'Reilly's Irish Rovers – which raised almost \$9,500 in contributions this year. This award recognizes Mayor O'Reilly for his efforts in making Relay for Life a community event here in Herndon."

Said Mayor O'Reilly, "Cancer has touched many of our lives. Individually and as a community, it is imperative that we all work together to support the American Cancer Society in

its fight against this disease. It has been my privilege to support Relay for Life and I am surprised and humbled by this award.”

According to event organizers, the 2006 Herndon Relay for Life raised more than \$258,000 to benefit the American Cancer Society, with donations still being received. Planning is already underway for the 2007 Relay, which will be held in June.

The Town of Herndon was incorporated by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia on January 14, 1879. Located in western Fairfax County, Herndon is the 3rd largest town in the Commonwealth and is home to more than 22,000 citizens. Businesses located within the Town of Herndon, which range from high tech enterprises to entrepreneurially-owned establishments, employ approximately 23,500 people.

For more information, visit the Town’s website at www.herndon-va.gov.

###